

Studying Scripture:
Through the Lense of Second Timothy
Christian Education Sunday
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- I. A Background for Second Timothy
 - A. Paul's last biblical letter written in the late 60's A.D.
 - B. Paul urges Timothy to come to him in Rome
 - C. Paul gives Timothy final instructions, reminders, and encouragement
- II. 2 Timothy 1
 - A. God Saves and Calls us to Himself for His Purposes (1:8-11)
 - 1. Reminds us of our chief purpose to glorify God and have a relationship with Him
 - 2. The Old Testament points God's people to Christ (Hebrew language)
 - 3. The New Testament gives the Good News to the World (Greek language)
 - B. Follow the Pattern of Sound Teaching (1:13-14)
 - 1. There are proper practices for studying Scripture that we can know and apply
 - 2. Read the Bible as it was intended to be read
 - a. The Bible is composed of many genres
 - b. The Bible employs many literary devices
 - 3. Our central focus should be to Guard the Gospel (the written Word and the personified Word – Jesus Christ – are inseparable)
- III. 2 Timothy 2
 - A. Receive the Word, Meditate on it, and God will Reveal Himself (2:7)
 - 1. Approach the Word with an open heart (not an agenda or desired answer)
 - 2. Meditate on it without distraction (ruminate – chew it like gum)
 - 3. God reveals His truth primarily through His Word, then His Providence
 - B. Handle the Word of God Accurately (2:14-15)
 - 1. Do not cause division over minutiae (Clear connotation of “trifling”)
 - 2. Stand up for matters of central importance to the faith (Guard the Gospel)
 - 3. Use what the Bible states clearly to interpret what seems complex.
 - a. The message of the Bible is logically consistent
 - b. Do not try to explain hard truths away when they are stated clearly
 - 4. Our “right” to Private Interpretation only extends as far as we maintain the true meaning of the Word (Catholic concern over multiplicity of interpretation)
- IV. 2 Timothy 3
 - A. Be assured of what you have learned from sound teachers (3:14)
 - 1. Sound teaching can be verified by examining the Scriptures
 - a. Does what the teacher is saying line up with other clear passages of Scripture?
 - b. Does the teacher's life mirror the character of Christ?
 - 2. We have witnesses who have lent their example of faith to us (Hebrews 12:1)
 - a. This directly applies to the characters we find in the Bible
 - b. This can also apply in principle to Christians who fit the previous qualifications
 - B. Scripture gives us the wisdom that can lead to Salvation through faith in Jesus (3:15)
 - 1. God primarily works in our hearts through His Word
 - a. This may come as we read it independently

- b. This may also come as God uses those who teach His Word as a Means of Grace
 - 2. Christians are responsible to study and apply His Word correctly (Hosea 4:6)
 - 3. Christians have the privilege of understanding the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- V. 2 Timothy 3 (cont.)
 - A. Scripture is Verbally Inspired by God (3:16)
 - 1. Each and every Scripture is God-breathed (providentially written by humans)
 - 2. The entirety of Scripture is nothing less than the Word of God (what do you believe about God?)
 - a. The infallibility of Scripture is based on the perfection of the God
 - b. The Bible gives us the whole truth as it pertains to the Christian life
 - 3. None of the Scriptures can be discounted without claiming human superiority over the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe
 - a. The inerrancy of Scripture emphasizes that there is no fault in its message
 - b. Perceived errors are caused by a weakness of character or lack of understanding
 - B. Scripture is Applicable to All of Life (3:17)
 - 1. Scripture was not written to us, but it was supernaturally intended for us
 - 2. Do not superimpose its original intent onto today, but look for the principle that can be applied to your life
 - 3. Scripture has one meaning but many applications
 - 4. Contradictory interpretations demand that no more than one of them can be true (maybe neither is true)
 - 5. Apply the letter and the spirit of the Word carefully (Matthew 22:36-40)
 - a. The letter of the law is always true, but it is not always comprehensive
 - b. Jesus extends the spirit of the law from the external to the internal
 - 6. A conscience trained by the Scripture can help us apply the principles of the Word how they are needed in our lives
- VI. 2 Timothy 4
 - A. People want to hear what sounds good to them (4:3-4)
 - 1. People would rather criticize the Bible than allow it to criticize them.
 - 2. We don't want our conscience to bother us, so we turn a blind eye to what God says
 - 3. The Bible transcends its cultural context (the idea of justice, the treatment of weaker members of society, and practical admonition)
 - 4. We are conditioned by our culture (Why do we have difficulty with some of what is in the Bible?)
 - 5. We need to be able to distinguish between the customs of the Biblical context and the principles that apply to us today
 - B. We need to fulfill our calling in the face of the faithless
 - 1. Paul was facing what seemed like the indomitable power of the Roman Empire
 - 2. Only God is our Judge and the Scripture is His Lawbook
 - 3. Paul's advice is to be vigilant (watch for threats), overcome (circumstances), and advance the Kingdom (by spreading the Gospel and making disciples)
- VII. Closing: Each and every Scripture is breathed out by God and is useful to apply to all of life (instruction in the truth, exposure of faults, correction of those faults, and child training in the ways of God) so that every believer can be prepared to function and entirely outfitted for every good work.